

**DRAFT**  
Historic Resources Element

*4/18/12 Working Draft  
Staff Suggestions*



# Historic Resources Introduction

*“The old landmarks and the most charming characteristics of Santa Barbara are disappearing before the march of ‘improvement’, and though our practical people cannot move the mountains, nor change the scenes, nor spoil the climate, they are doing all they can to despoil the quaint beauty of the place and make it just a commonplace American town.”*  
(Santa Barbara Morning Press editorial, January 3, 1874.)

To a first-time visitor to Santa Barbara, even the most cursory observation reveals the predominant role historic resources play in the identity and character of this City. That visitor cannot help appreciating a remarkable characteristic of this unique place: that most anywhere the eye falls it beholds something esthetically pleasing, framed by scenery similarly pleasing. Often that tableau of notable features harkens to an earlier time.

It is no accident that Santa Barbara has preserved so much of its past, and accommodated it so tastefully and seamlessly into the city’s modern day incarnation. The city has had the benefit of an active and enduring preservationist spirit, which has been supported by foresighted leaders. The purpose of this Historic Resources Element is to perpetuate this tradition in the years and decades ahead.

By climate and geography alone, Santa Barbara ranks as one of the most attractive places on earth. This attractiveness quotient poses significant challenges to preservation efforts, since it engenders pressure for new development. Any number of similarly attractive places, as a result of such pressures, have lost much of their identifiable relationship to their past, and are hardly recognizable from what they were only a few decades ago. The fact that Santa Barbara has retained so much of its identity is testimony to the commitment to its preservationist tradition.

In spite of having succeeded in retaining so much of its historical essence and identity, increased diligence is necessary. As this is written in 2012, a prolonged recession has abated some of the development pressures that, as they beget change, threaten the historical resources of this, one of the country’s eminent smaller historical cities. Within the past generation, Santa Barbara has become a household name, synonymous with idyllic appeal, and this only exacerbates the challenge as more people wish to locate here. The inevitable swing of the economic pendulum will unleash renewed pressures for development, severely testing the city’s ability to preserve the part its historic heritage plays in the city’s character city.

This Historic Resources Element is intended to help forearm, as well as to assist in the delicate balancing of property rights and the public interest that is inherent in historic preservation. Given that historic resources are so instrumental in the local economy, and so great a contributor to property values, this Element’s key role in enlightening those balancing decisions is obvious.

This Element serves to pull together preservation rationale, policy and implementation priorities into a single foundation piece, bringing historic resource preservation into parity with other city concerns and priorities. It is intended to help foster and insure coordination of all city preservation efforts, public and private.

# Santa Barbara's Tradition: Planning with History in Mind

*"The preservation movement has one great curiosity. There is never retrospective controversy or regret." (John Kenneth Galbraith, The Economic and Social Returns of Preservation.)*

## MAJOR MILESTONES

For many decades interested citizens, community groups, neighborhood associations and preservation organizations have actively participated in the planning and development of the City. After passage of a State enabling law in 1959, the City of Santa Barbara responded to citizens' suggestions and adopted the "El Pueblo Viejo Ordinance" on March 8, 1960. The ordinance established El Pueblo Viejo (EPV) as a design control district and set restrictions upon the alteration or demolition of historic buildings. It was named for the City's core, which developed around the Spanish Royal Presidio, founded in 1782. In May 1960, the City Council created the Advisory Landmark Committee (ALC), which was charged with making "an inventory of Historic Sites and Structures in Santa Barbara" as well as other resources of significance. The Committee acted in an advisory capacity to all agencies of the City regarding historic buildings and the design of structures within El Pueblo Viejo. Soon the ALC produced a list of significant structures and adobes. Subsequently, the Council designated City Landmarks via the ordinance amendment process. As a result, a number of historical sites and structures were preserved, including some of the oldest adobe buildings. In 1969 Mission Santa Barbara (founded in 1786) and the area around it was included in EPV. The ALC received staff assistance from the Planning Division beginning in 1974 and a regular meeting schedule was established. Work began on a revised Historic Structures chapter for the Municipal Code. The expanded ordinance was adopted in 1977. Its purpose was strengthened and the designation process was clarified. Since then many more designations have been made. This ordinance and the later adoption of the City Coastal Plan created an El Pueblo Viejo that included the waterfront and major entrances to the city. In 1978, the Landmarks Committee began a major program of architectural and historic resources surveys. In 1993, city voters approved a City Charter amendment to establish a Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC).

Requiring specific architectural styles within EPV compatible with its Hispanic tradition allows for the further protection of historic resources and perpetuates the City's renowned tradition of Hispanic architecture. For design review outside of EPV and the Brinkerhoff District, the Architectural Board of Review (ABR) is charged with reviewing applications. The ABR's function includes protecting and preserving the natural charm and beauty of Santa Barbara, including the historical style, qualities, characteristics of the buildings, structures, and architectural features associated with and established by its long, illustrious and distinguished past.

The City's Sign Ordinances have contributed significantly in the appearance and overall character of the City. Adopted and refined over many years, City regulations to limit pole signs, the amount of signage and standards for traditional forms of signage have helped maintain the historic character of the City. These milestones are vital to the City's economy. The City relies on its scenery, physical beauty, historic character and design consistency to attract tourists and commerce.

## ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

### **Economic Benefits of Historic Preservation**

There are many economic advantages to the use or reuse of older buildings versus new construction. Preservation of historic resources has been shown to increase property values, community appeal, and tourism. Tourism is one of California's largest industries and historic properties are a major factor in its growth. Heritage Tourism generates economic benefits for local businesses: visitors spend money on lodging, food and drink, transportation, attractions and events, among other things. Other benefits include historical education, awareness of cultural sites, and community identity for both local residents and visitors. Numerous studies throughout the country have conclusively shown that property values in local historic districts increase at higher rates than non-historic properties, and remain more stable in times of recession. Integration of preservation strategies into the planning process assures preservation of the traditional scale and visual interest of the City.

### **Historic Resources and Sustainability Goals**

Investment in established neighborhoods at any scale is a form of reinvestment in inherently sustainable communities that are generally smaller in scale, walkable, transit-accessible and may feature mixed uses. The use of older structures and the adaptive reuse of buildings serves to lower the carbon footprint of the entire community and avoid the environmental effects that come with demolition and reconstruction. It has been estimated that a significant amount of the material being added to landfills is demolition and construction waste. Historic buildings contain significant embodied energy whereas new construction requires energy to extract, manufacture, transport and assemble building materials. Adaptive re-use or rehabilitation of a building normally requires construction on site and changes the ratio of labor and material breakdowns, thereby generating local construction jobs.

Preserving historic resources is not only economically beneficial but also provides layers of history and visual interest in the city. This ineffable benefit to the richness and vitality of a community contributes to the sustainability of the community. Preservation considers not only a resource, but its surrounding environment as well, and any changes to that environment, such as solar exposure or drainage patterns. Such diligence ensures that new development occurs in a way that respects and protects the fabric of the resource. This holistic approach to preserving historic resources supports community sustainability.

## **FUTURE ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

### **Survey Completion and Funding**

The city continues to face the preservation challenge of ensuring that future development fits into the environment and does not negatively impact the city's scenic character and historic resources. The worldwide reputation of Santa Barbara as a historic city and a tourist destination remains a vital factor in the economy of the city. Because the city is almost fully built-out, growth in Santa Barbara continues to shift from building on open land to redevelopment of existing sites. As a result, historical and cultural resources will be increasingly viewed as sites with redevelopment opportunity especially in the downtown core and established neighborhoods. This development pressure could result in the loss of historical buildings, structures, landscapes, and archaeological resources. The challenge remains to fund and complete historic resource surveys. These surveys are essential tools for identifying historically significant properties, archaeological sites

and potential historic districts and providing relevant historical information. The completed surveys serve to inform property owners as well as the city residents of the importance of historic buildings, landscapes and neighborhoods. They serve as a guide for assisting property owners as well as the city in making changes to property that respect its historic integrity.

## **Records and Designations**

Obtaining funding and budget allocations to support the Historic Preservation Program. There is a direct correlation to the amount of funding/staffing provided to make sufficient progress on the necessary improvements to support the City's historic preservation program. For example, more funding could allow:

- the use of consultants to complete survey efforts
- Maps indicating areas with a high potential for archaeological resources from specific time periods to be continually updated and quickly made available for review

Prioritization and focus of work efforts to complete surveys, listings, and designations would allow for timely and accurate updates to City records and provide more protection of resources.

Municipal Code Ordinance amendments to create historic district designations will require:

- Public education regarding the importance of protecting distinctive historic properties representing architectural periods in the City's development.
- Public hearings to explain district creation procedures and legal issues.
- A balance to be struck between private property rights and the public interest ("public good") that attaches to property that has historic significance to a community.
- Support from local citizen groups and City Council to designate these historic areas even when faced with potential objections from individual property owners.

It is important to remember that Santa Barbara is a city in which historic resources play a central role in its identity and its property values, thus one in which the balance may weigh more on the side of public interest. Future land use decisions which affect the community's heritage, as reflected in the historic, architectural, and archaeological resources, must recognize the irreplaceable nature of these resources. The value of these resources are to be given equal weight to other factors being considered in the decision-making process.

# Goals, Policies, and Implementation

## GOALS

- ***Protection and Enhancement of Historical Resources:*** Continue to identify, designate, protect, preserve and enhance the City’s historical, architectural, and archaeological resources. Ensure Santa Barbara’s “sense of place” by preserving and protecting evidence of its historic past, which includes but is not limited to its historic buildings, structures, sites, features, streetscapes, neighborhoods, and landscapes.
- ***Historic Neighborhoods Preservation:*** Protect the significant contribution made by Santa Barbara’s historic neighborhoods to the City’s charm and sense of historical context.
- ***Increased Awareness and Appreciation:*** Increase public awareness and appreciation of Santa Barbara’s history and pre-history, its historical, cultural and paleontological resources, their value and the need to protect them. Recognize that historic resources are necessary contributors to attaining sustainability, environmental and economic vitality, and preservation of quality of life.
- ***Governmental Cooperation:*** Incorporate preservation principles as a valid and necessary component in decision-making, at every phase of City government, and secure cooperation from all levels and agencies of government in these efforts.

## General Resource Protection Policies

These general protection policies apply to all types of resources, including:

- Non-designated or potential historically significant individual resources
- Designated and eligible historic resources
- Streetscapes, public features and pedestrian amenities
- Resource areas, groupings, concentrations and historic neighborhoods
- Archaeological
- Paleontological

- HR1. **Secure Protection for Historic and Archaeological Resources.** Protect the heritage of the City by identifying, preserving, protecting and enhancing both individual resources, such as buildings, structures, features, sites, artifacts, objects, and landscapes, as well as areas of historic significance, streetscapes, and groupings of historic resources, that not only have architectural or archeological significance, but that also contribute to Santa Barbara's historic fabric.

***Possible Implementation Actions to be Considered***

- HR1.1 Use all available tools. Consider both interim and long-term specific preservation strategies and land use regulation mechanisms, including those listed in the Land Use Element, such as revised development standards, buffer protection, overlay zones, special design or historic districts, Landmark, and Structure of Merit designations.
- HR1.2 Use available interim protections. Interim measures to protect such resources shall be pursued, including revised development standards, buffer protection, overlay zones, special design districts, and related measures.
- HR1.3 Secure permanent protection. Continue to adopt measures such as establishment of Historic Districts, density reduction and architectural compatibility within nearby new development, stepping back of buildings within buffer areas, reduced building heights, and other development standards.
- HR1.4 Adopt preservation guidelines. Develop and adopt guidelines consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Preservation of Historic Structures for maintenance and changes to historic properties. The guidelines will apply to new buildings, structures, additions, alterations and landscapes for properties within historic districts. The guidelines will also assist property owners in understanding the important character-defining elements of buildings and historic architectural styles, and in planning exterior alterations, additions, or rehabilitation of existing resources, as well as ways to maintain them.
- HR1.5 Interpret regulations flexibly. In order to ensure that a historic resource will be perpetuated, even if its historical use becomes obsolete or discontinued, avoid the application or strict interpretation of regulatory codes and ordinances in a way which might erode or alter its traditional and historical character. In accord with the spirit and the intent of the California State Historical Building Code, interpret and apply the application of such codes so that flexible yet equally safe alternatives can be substituted that promote the future vitality of the historic resource.
- HR2. **Ensure Compatible and Respectful Development Adjacent to Historic and Archeological Resources.** Protect, preserve and enhance resources by assuring compatibility of adjacent development. Seek to ensure that all new development within the City respects rather than detracts from individual historical context of historic resources as well as the immediate neighborhood and the overall historical character of the city. Appropriate compatibility measures include assurances that such development is appropriately scaled, designed and sited, and provided with well-located open space and landscaping.



***Possible Implementation Actions to be Considered***

- HR2.1 Consider impacts to historic resources comprehensively. Require that identification and potential impact analysis be an integral component of the review process of all development applications.
- a. Assess potential damage. Ensure that construction activities in proximity to the historic structure do not damage the historic resource. For projects involving substantial demolition and/or grading adjacent to such a resource, include any necessary measures as determined in consultation with the City Urban Historian, or in accepted Cultural Resource or Historic Structures Report recommendations. Such measures should include participation by a structural engineer and/or an architect knowledgeable in historic resources and their treatment, such as a historical architect.
  - b. Analyze potential long-term damage. Where appropriate, require an evaluation for potential environmental damage to vulnerable historic resources (e.g., older adobe buildings and structures), such as when development and landscaping in proximity might result in a change in microclimate of the affected historic resource. The goal is to ensure that there are no significant long-term negative impacts to the condition or environment of the historic resource. The evaluation study shall include a comparative assessment of potential harmful impacts to the exterior or interior of a structure. Impacts to be studied may include air circulation, humidity, temperature, heating and cooling dynamics, noise, vibration, air quality, and light and shade conditions.
- HR2.2 Compatible development. Development on parcels in proximity to designated historic resources shall be designed, sited and scaled to be compatible with their historic neighbor and with public enjoyment of the historic site. Construction activity in proximity to historic resources shall not damage or adversely impact the historic resources, and new buildings and structures themselves shall not pose threat of either short or long-term damaging effects upon the historic resources.
- HR2.3 Reduce densities. The Commercial Medium/High Density land use designation shall be applied in those areas within 100 feet of designated or eligible historic resources. Flexibility to allow increased density for rental and employer housing shall be considered on a case-by-case basis but only if consistent with historic resource preservation goals of the city.
- HR2.4 Appropriately scale adjacent construction. Proportionately scale construction (addressing height, size, bulk, volume, etc.) adjacent to historic resources.
- HR2.5 Employ transfers of development rights (TDR). Create a residential TDR program for residential properties developed with historically significant buildings to enable the preservation of historic resources without exceeding the recommended overall allowed combined General Plan densities of the parcels involved.
- HR2.6 Adopt historic resource buffers. Employ measures such as adjustments in height, bulk, size, setbacks and density to establish buffer zones to further protect historic resources.
- a. Require that all parcels within 100 feet of a designated or eligible historic resource be identified and flagged for scrutiny for impacts on those resources, prior to either approval of any development application, or consideration of increased densities for rental, employer and/or Affordable Housing.

- b. All development proposed within 250 feet of historic adobe buildings and structures, El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park and areas inclusive of the original footprint of the Presidio, and other designed or eligible City Landmarks may be subject to measures for additional protection.
- c. Establish buffers with priority focus on properties near eligible and designated historic and landmark districts.

HR2.7 Analyze, Protect and Recognize the Importance of Viewscapes. Review proposed construction on parcels in proximity to historic resources as to how they may affect views of and from resources. A determination as to viewscapes shall be made and applied consistently in development reviews of both individual resources and historic areas.

HR3. **Discourage Demolition and Pursue Adaptive Reuse.** Develop effective measures to discourage and curtail the demolition of historic resources. Encourage the adaptation of buildings or structures for uses other than the original intended use when the original use is no longer viable.

### ***Possible Implementation Actions to be Considered***

HR 3.1 Prevent egregious neglect. Explore feasibility of an ordinance that protects historic resources from “demolition by neglect”. Enable the City to take appropriate action in cases of historic properties or properties in proximity to historic properties being allowed to deteriorate.

HR 3.2 Review demolitions of older buildings. Expand procedures for review of applications for demolition or relocation of buildings citywide to prevent the loss of buildings that may have historic or architectural significance and to provide the time necessary to initiate designation or to consider alternatives to demolition of the building.

HR 3.3 Draft user-friendly codes and regulatory procedures. Reorganize existing code provisions relating to demolitions to coordinate the various provisions, make them more understandable, and clarify their applicability and enforcement procedures. Change local ordinances and interpret codes, whenever and to the degree possible, to favor adaptive reuse.

HR 3.4 Require project design alternatives. Require development proposals that request demolition of historic resources to present preservation alternatives, such as adaptive reuse, rehabilitation or relocation rather than demolition.

HR3.5 Motivate. Provide incentives for the adaptive reuse of historic buildings. Support zoning modification approvals for parking and setbacks to allow more change of uses for historic properties and allow more flexible building code compliance alternatives.

HR3.6 Facilitate financing loan program. Create a restoration and rehabilitation loan program specific to historic resources.

### **Specific Historic Resource Protection Policies**

In addition to General Historic Resource Protection Policies 1 through 3, the following historic resource protection policies apply for specific types of resources.

HR4 **Protect Traditional Neighborhoods.** Protect Santa Barbara’s older neighborhoods and streetscapes that have retained their original character – including those in close proximity to the downtown and commercial cores - from development that might transform their original historic

character. Identify the older residential neighborhoods in the city that have substantially maintained their original and historical character, and pursue measures to preserve that character.

***Possible Implementation Actions to be Considered***

HR4.1 Provide guidelines that facilitate. Adopt design guidelines that seek to ensure that new and remodeling construction will be compatible with surrounding historical development, that seek to prevent the unnecessary loss of a structure or historical features, and that ensure appropriate compatible design.

HR4.2 Lend property owners a hand. Encourage upgrading and revitalization compatible with the character of the surrounding neighborhood, and provide homeowners with incentives, technical assistance and support.

HR4.3 Prioritize documented candidates. Fast-track adoption of interim or permanent protection measures – such as historic district status or other appropriate measures - for those neighborhoods that have been adequately documented by historic resources inventory efforts.

HR4.4 Establish zoning that conforms to the character of neighborhoods. Identify incompatibilities between the original, traditional development patterns of existing older neighborhoods and existing zoning, and seek to reconcile the conflicts in ways that help insure perpetuation of the neighborhood's original development patterns. Review and revise, as appropriate, the zoning currently applicable to older neighborhoods that would allow exploitation by development that would adversely affect or erode its historic character.

HR5. **Protect Traditional Landscapes.** Identify and preserve historic landscapes.

***Possible Implementation Actions to be Considered***

HR5.1 Identify and designate landscape features. Require that historic surveys include identification of historic trees, specimen trees, gardens, landscapes, streetscapes and landscape features. Include landscape features worthy of protection as part of historic designation boundaries.

HR5.2 Protect landscapes that contribute to historic resource context. Require that reviews of all development applications consider impacts upon historic landscapes and landscape features that contribute to a historic resource.

HR6. **Protect Traditional Streetscapes.** Identify and preserve significant streetscapes and ensure a public review process in order to protect their historical features and attributes.

***Possible Implementation Actions to be Considered***

HR6.1 Preserve traditional streetscapes. Pursue measures to ensure protection of historical streetscape features, such as trees, stone curbing, hitching posts, and sidewalk imprints.

HR6.2 Prioritize documented features. Target those historic streetscape features that have been identified in historic resources surveys for specific protection measures, such as Landmarks or structure of merit designation, as well as state and federal designations.

HR6.3 Promote streets that accommodate pedestrians. Since traditional streetscapes accommodated walkers, require that all projects involving street design pursue options that best advance and enhance "pedestrian friendliness".

~~HR7. **Protect archaeological resources from potential damage or destruction.**~~

~~***Possible Implementation Actions to be Considered***~~

~~HR7.1 Protect sensitive areas. In the environmental review process, any proposed project which is in an area indicated on the map as "sensitive" shall receive further study to determine if archaeological resources are present and in jeopardy. A preliminary site survey (or similar study as part of an environmental impact report) shall be conducted in every case where archaeological resources could be threatened.~~

~~HR7.2 Consider in decision-making. When making land use decisions, potential damage to archaeological resources shall be given consideration along with other planning, environmental, social, and economic considerations.~~

~~HR7.3 Preserve known artifacts. Publicly accessible areas known to contain significant archaeological resources should be preserved by limiting access and/or development which would involve permanent covering or disturbance of sub-surface artifacts.~~

### **Survey and Designation of Historic Resources Policy**

HR7. **Survey, Document and Designate All Resources.** Continue to identify, document and designate individual historic resources. Identify, document, and designate areas, neighborhoods, blocks, concentrations and groupings of historic resources that have historical significance.

***Possible Implementation Actions to be Considered***

HR7.1 Accelerate surveys. Prioritize the existing program for city historic resource surveys. Continue and broaden the citywide program of architectural and historical resources surveys to identify and document information about significant buildings, structures and sites.

HR7.2 Identify substantially original development patterns. Identify the older residential streets, blocks or neighborhoods in the city that have substantially maintained their original and historical character, and that are vulnerable to incompatible development and transformation.

HR7.3 Permanently retain all survey documents. Organize the documents into a format that facilitates public access and review.

HR7.4 Designate identified resources expeditiously. As soon as possible after the identification of significant eligible resources, process designations of historic resources to have the applicable structure of merit, landmark or historic district designation.

### **Public Education Policy**

HR8. **Increase Awareness of Santa Barbara's Heritage.** Promote recognition that conservation of historic and cultural resources is a necessary contributor toward economic vitality, attaining sustainability and preservation of quality of life. Increase public awareness and appreciation of the significance of Santa

Barbara's history. Promote awareness, appreciation and understanding of the early inhabitants of Santa Barbara.

***Possible Implementation Actions to be Considered***

HR8.1 Generate programs. Develop and expand programs that educate the public about the importance of preserving archaeological, prehistoric, historical, and cultural resources.

HR8.2 Reach out. Promote programs, awards and events to heighten public awareness and promote tourism.

HR8.3 Coordinate promotion. Integrate promotional efforts of various agencies and organizations that utilize local history such as, walking tours, brochures, fairs, festivals, public events and awards.

HR8.4 Enhance recognition. Consider programs that enhance recognition of historic resources.

HR8.5 Improve Awareness. Encourage and participate in partnerships between the City, developers, landowners and the Chumash to increase the visibility of Chumash history and culture by:

- a. Supporting public displays or exhibits of Chumash arts, culture and history,
- b. Encouraging the incorporation of elements from Chumash art and culture into public and private development,
- c. Supporting the creation of a permanent Chumash archaeological museum and interpretive center.

## **Governmental Facilitation Policy**

HR9. **Assure Governmental Effectiveness.** Provide adequate resources to enable implementation of the goals and policies within this Element. Ensure coordination between agencies and review bodies at all levels of government by every means, including provision of easy access to all relevant information and materials.

***Possible Implementation Actions to be Considered***

HR9.1 Assure technical know-how. Re-examine the City's current review process to ensure that issues and projects involving historical considerations that come before the various review bodies receive appropriate expertise to address the historical considerations.

HR9.2 Provide needed expertise. Provide the Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) with adequate appropriate staff support for its review of projects, and to effectively carry out its mandate to identify and protect historic resources.

HR9.3 Educate board members. Ensure that HLC members are adequately oriented with respect to the expertise and technical knowledge required to carry out the HLC mission.

HR9.4 Establish partnerships. Encourage cooperative efforts between individuals, private organizations and government agencies concerned with preservation of the city's historic resources.

HR9.5 Seek assistance for privately owned historic resources. Explore adoption of all available forms of governmental incentives toward preservation and protection of privately owned

historic resources, such as tax relief (Mills Act, etc.), covenant and contractual arrangements, and technical assistance.

- HR9.6 Assure eligibility. Investigate and pursue state and federal legislation, procedures and grants enacted to aid in the preservation of historic buildings, structures and sites. Pursue any local prerequisites to participation in such federal and statewide assistance, such as designation as a Certified Local Government (CLG).
- HR9.7 Pursue new funding approaches. Consider the creation of a fund to assist in historic preservation efforts; seek sources of non-tax funding to supplement City historic preservation efforts.
- HR9.8 Enforce ordinances. Provide adequate funding support for enforcement of all aesthetic and historic preservation ordinances.
- HR9.9 Ensure Uniformity of Regulation Application. Assure that the requirements and restrictions administered by the Historic Landmarks Commission and the Architectural Board of Review shall be as equally applicable to projects undertaken by the City or other public agencies as they are to private projects.
- HR9.10 Coordinate Reviews. Coordinate reviews with other authorities so that County, State and Federal project reviews receive early concept reviews as a consulting party.

# Definitions

***Adaptive Re-Use*** - The reuse of a building or structure, usually for a purpose different from the original. The term implies that certain structural or design changes have been made to the building or structure in order for it to function in its new use. Examples might include a factory building now used for loft apartments, or a house now used as an office.

***Archaeological*** - Pertaining to the scientific study of the life and culture of earlier peoples by survey and excavation of sites and relics.

***Archaeological Resources*** - Any material remains of human life or activities which are of archaeological potential.

***Archaeological Site*** - An archaeological site is the location of a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined, or vanished, where the location itself possesses archaeological value regardless of the value of any existing building or structure.

***Architectural*** - Pertaining to the science, art or profession of designing and constructing buildings and structures.

***Architectural Significance*** - The importance of a property based on physical aspects of its design, materials, form, style, or workmanship.

***Buffer (or buffer zones)*** - An area, developed or undeveloped, that separates a resource from potentially incompatible development, that serves to soften, mitigate or resolve potential conflict or incompatible.

***Compatibility*** - Compatibility for any development at its fundament requires an understanding and respect of the distinctive character, identity and history of the City as well as the established building patterns, styles, scale, aesthetic qualities and character of the immediate neighborhood. In the context of new development in proximity to a historic resource, compatibility is the creation of a respectful relationship between proposed development and the existing historic resource (both its individual character-defining elements and its overall composition as a building or structure and part of a site). Compatibility requires new development to strive to protect and enhance the integrity of a historic resource at every level.

***Cultural*** - Pertaining to the concepts, habits, skills, arts, instruments, institutions, etc. of a given people in a period.

***Cultural Resource*** - Something that has acquired significant associations with human activities and human events.

***Demolition by Neglect*** - Allowing a building or site improvements to fall into such a state of disrepair that it becomes necessary or desirable to demolish it.

***Enhance*** - To facilitate the comprehension, enjoyment, and accessibility of the subject or object in question, be it a historic building, structure, site, features, streetscape, neighborhood, or landscape.

**Historic** - For purposes of this Historic Resources Element, the adjective “historic” shall mean having temporal significance because of age, importance in history or culture, architectural quality, relative degree of preservation or authenticity, popular nostalgic attraction, or other consideration that may merit the application of measures for preservation or protection. Historic is often used in a more technical sense having more limited definition, but for purposes of understanding this Element, the preceding definition will be used unless the context indicates the term’s use in a more technical sense.

**Historic District** - A delineated geographic area of the City (or a noncontiguous grouping of real properties within the City) where most of the properties within the district are thematically architecturally related and possess historical significance, special character, or aesthetic value, including, but not limited to, a distinct section of the City possessing a significant concentration of cultural resources which are united historically or aesthetically either by plan or by physical development, designated by the City Council as being worthy of protection.

**Historic Preservation** - Encompass a broad range of activities related to preservation and conservation of the built environment by physical and intellectual methods. By the late twentieth century its principles also contributed to protection of prehistoric archaeological sites.

**Historic Property** - See “Historic Resource” definition.

**Historic Resource** – For purposes of this Historic Resources Element, unless specifically referenced in a more technical sense, historic resources can include any building, structure, feature, site, property, artifact, object, landscape, streetscape, or neighborhood that has temporal significance because of contributing factors such as age, importance in history or culture, architectural quality, relative degree of preservation or authenticity, popular nostalgic attraction, of other consideration that may merit consideration or application of measures for preservation protection. The preceding definition will be used unless the context indicates the term’s use in a more technical sense. Historic resources include designated historic resources, defined below.

**Historic Resource** - For the purposes of this Historic Resource Element, historic resources can include any building, structure, feature, site, property, artifact, object, landscape, streetscape, or neighborhood that has interest or value as part of the heritage of the City, State, or Nation, due to factors such as age, architectural quality, relevance to a historical event or events, potential to yield information of archaeological interest, or identification with a person or persons who contributed to the culture and development of the City, State, or Nation, and relative degree of preservation or authenticity, or other considerations that may merit consideration or application of measures for preservation protection. Historic resources include both resources that have been identified, such as designated, eligible and potential historic resources, defined below, as well as resources which have not yet been evaluated.

**Historic Resource – Designated.** A City designated “Landmark” or a City designated “Structure of Merit”, or a State or National Landmark.

**Historic Resource – Eligible.** A historic resources which has been deemed by the Historic Landmarks Commission to meet the criteria for a designated historic resource.

**Historic Resource – Potential.** A historic resource which has been identified by the Historic Landmarks Commission as being a potentially significant historic resource.

**Historic Resources Survey** - A field investigation of buildings, structures, sites, or natural features within a certain area or neighborhood of the City, undertaken by the City for the purpose of identifying potential historic resources.



**Historic Building or Structure** - 1. A structure that is famous because of its association with a historic event or the history of a locality. 2. Any structure listed (or eligible to be listed) in a national, state, provincial/territorial, or local register or inventory of historic places, 3. Any structure that contributes to the historical significance of a historic district, a neighborhood, a streetscape, or possesses physical characteristics that represent or contribute to an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood.

**Historical** - Belonging or relating to history or historians; a generally more inclusive term than historic.

**Historical Architect** - A licensed architect who specializes in the preservation of historic buildings and structures; typically has special expertise about early building techniques and materials; prepares historic structure reports, coordinates the work of other specialists involved in a project, such as an architectural historian, archaeologist, engineer, historic interiors specialist, and landscape architect, and produces the construction documents for the architectural conservation, restoration, or rehabilitation work.

**Historical Features** - Structures, landscapes, objects or elements that originated during a particular historical period. Also an element that contributes to a resource's identification, understanding or interpretation as an example of architecture attributable to a particular historical period.

**Historical Significance** - The evaluation for importance of an element, building, or site due to its association with a significant event, person, or time period, or as an example of a past architectural style.

**Landmark** - A building, structure, natural feature, site or area having historic, architectural, archaeological, cultural or aesthetic significance and designated as a landmark.

**Landmark District** - Any area of the City of Santa Barbara containing a number of buildings or structures, natural features or sites having historic, architectural, archaeological, cultural or aesthetic significance and designated as a city landmark district under the provisions of the Santa Barbara Municipal Code.

**Neighborhood** - For purposes of this Historic Resources Element, an area possessing a sense of cohesiveness, because of physical features suggesting boundaries and/or concentrations of shared architectural or cultural characteristics, which distinguishes it from surrounding areas.

**Paleontological** - The branch of science concerned with fossil animals and plants.

**Prehistory** - Information gained through resources as well as human history in the period before recorded events, known mainly through archaeological discoveries, study, research, etc.

**Preservation** - A historic building treatment that places a high premium on the retention of all historic fabric through conservation, maintenance and repair. It reflects a building's continuum over time, through successive occupancies, and the respectful changes and alterations that are made.\*

**Reconstruction** - A historic building treatment that establishes limited opportunities to re-create a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object in all new materials.\*

**Rehabilitation** - A historic building treatment that emphasizes the retention and repair of historic materials, but more latitude is provided for replacement because it is assumed the property is more deteriorated prior to work. (Both Preservation and Rehabilitation standards focus attention on the preservation of those materials, features, finishes, spaces, and spatial relationships that, together, give a property its historic character.)

**Restoration** - A historic building treatment that focuses on the retention of materials from the most significant time in a property's history, while permitting the removal of materials from other periods.\*

***Special Design District*** - A delineated area of the City which, because of buildings or structures, natural features or sites within or near it, has been so designated by ordinance primarily for the purpose of defining and preserving its unique character.

***Streetscape*** - The visual elements of a [street](#), including the road, adjoining buildings, [street furniture](#), trees and open spaces, etc, that combine to form the street's character.

***Structure of Merit*** - A building or structure not designated as a landmark but deserving official recognition as having historic, architectural, archaeological, cultural or aesthetic significance and designated as a Structure of Merit under the provisions of the Santa Barbara Municipal Code.

***Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)*** - A mechanism that allows the transfer of development rights from certain properties to certain other properties within the city. Also known as “Transfer of Development Credits,” a program that can relocate potential development from areas where proposed land use or environmental impacts are considered undesirable (the “donor” site) to another (“receiver”) site.

***Viewscape*** - The sight or prospect of views from a point. A visual connection that occurs between a person and the spatial arrangement of urban and/or natural landscape features.

***View Corridor*** - The visually unimpeded area in the periphery of a linear view from a specific vantage point (can be narrow, wide, pyramid in shape or rectangular, etc.).

The line of sight - identified as to height, width, and distance - looking toward an object of interest (e.g., ridgeline, river, historic building, etc.).

\*Definitions are consistent with National Park Service definitions. See the City of Santa Barbara Master Environmental Assessment Guidelines appendix for more information about how this term is implemented for specific preservation projects in the City of Santa Barbara.

# Appendix I

## FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS

Historic resource protection measures derive primarily from local ordinances and guidelines. There are also state and federal laws and guidelines which support historic resource preservation.

The City's Master Environmental Assessment document provides additional information about the following legislation:

- National Historic Preservation Act, 1966, amended 1992.
- National Environmental Policy Act., 1969.
- California Environmental Quality Act, 1970.
- California Register of Historical Resources, 1992.
- Native American Heritage Laws.

## CITY REGULATIONS

As discussed in the Major Milestones section, the City has a long history of protecting its historic resources, and the Historic Landmarks Commission has played an important role in shaping the development of Santa Barbara's historic preservation program. The City requires a thorough historic assessment for development applications involving alterations to significant and potentially significant historic properties. The city encompasses many historic resources with national, statewide and local significance. These resources are identified with parcel tags in the City's permit tracking system.

### Historic Landmarks Commission

The Historic Landmarks Commission and its powers and duties were authorized in the City Charter (Sec. 817) and implemented by the Santa Barbara Municipal Code. Some of the many Historic Landmarks Commission responsibilities are to:

- Carry out the provisions of the Historic Structures Ordinance.
- Review and approve, conditionally approve, or deny all applications for the alteration of any Landmark including landscaping, site plans, exterior paint, and other visual characteristics.
- Review the proposed alterations or demolitions of any structure or real property in landmark districts, historic districts or related to historic properties.
- Recommend to the City Council building or structures, natural features, sites or areas having historical, architectural, archaeological, cultural or aesthetic significance that might be designated as Landmarks.
- Designation of Structures of Merit

## **Historic Structures Ordinance**

The Historic Structures Ordinance details preservation procedures and duties for the Historic Landmarks Commission and prescribes the review process for alterations, relocation, and designation of Landmarks and Structures of Merit. The Ordinance identifies the boundaries and purpose of landmark districts and historic districts and the required architectural styles for any structure altered or constructed within these districts. In addition to regulatory requirements, the ordinance provides for preservation incentives, including use of the California Historical Building Code, preservation easements and Mills Act property tax reduction contracts.

## **City Historic Preservation Work Program**

A comprehensive historic preservation work program (Preservation Program) is key for the protection of historic resources. City of Santa Barbara Preservation Program staff is responsible for a variety of tasks, including project review, environmental review, Historic Landmarks Commission support, and management of historic and cultural resource surveys. As of 2012, program components consist of:

- Enforcement of Historic Structures Ordinance
- Staff support of the Historic Landmarks Commission
- Continuing the Historic Resources Survey Program
- Applying California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) historic review and Master Environmental Assessment (MEA) Guidelines to current development applications, including review of Archaeological Reports and Historic Structures Reports
- Initiation of Landmark and Structure of Merit Designations
- Initiate historic district designations
- Updating local list of potential historic resources
- Developing historic district and resource design guidelines
- Creating incentives for historic property owners and eligible properties
- Coordinating Historic Resources Element updates
- Demolition review regulations implementation

A major part of the Preservation Program was initiated by City Council in 2002, with the adoption of MEA Guidelines, discussion involving demolition control regulations, and the establishment of funding for future historic resource surveys citywide. Demolition regulations were strengthened in 2004 after it was discovered that certain older buildings that may have had historic significance obtained only ministerial approval for demolition permits.

Creating support for historic preservation requires public understanding of the significant contributions of historical resources to the quality and vitality of life, aesthetic appeal, and cultural environment of the City. In order to better inform and educate the public on the merits of historic preservation, information on the resources themselves, as well as the purpose and objectives of the Preservation Program, must be developed and widely distributed.